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Library Notes: Selected Acquisitions [v. 8, no. 1]

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Selected Acquisitions

Gen. James Breckinridge Correspondence

Mrs. Henry Breckinridge of Washington, DC has presented to the libraries an important collection of twenty-four letters written by Gen. James Breckinridge (1763-1833) of Botetourt County, Virginia, along with several interesting letters to him and a group of family photographs. A veteran of the War of 1812, James Breckinridge served for thirteen sessions in the Virginia House of Delegates, served eight years in Congress, and ran unsuccessfully for governor of Virginia against James Monroe. These Breckinridge letters deal with a variety of topics, including land, family, legal and financial matters, travel, war news, and Indian hostilities. A letter of 15 December 1809 from Robert Breckinridge, at Frankfort, to General Breckinridge appears to carry the earliest known example of a Kentucky stampless cancellation. Four of the letters authored by Robert Breckinridge are dated from Beargrass, the present-day Louisville. Also included is a letter, dated 2 February 1817, to General Breckinridge from Henry Clay, inviting him to dinner in Washington. This valuable group of materials forms an important addition to the libraries' holdings of Breckinridge family papers.

A. Z. Looney Photographic Collection

The family of the late Mr. A. Z. Looney of Lexington have made a generous gift of his photographs and negatives to the Photographic Archives of the University Libraries. Although Mr. Looney worked occasionally as a professional photographer, he was also a member of the talented circle of Lexington amateurs who comprised the Lexington Camera Club, an organization which began in the late 1930s. Included in the gift are a number of fine enlargements of Mr. Looney's work which were included in the exhibitions of the Camera Club as well as several examples of the work of other photographers in the organization, among whom prints were traded. The Looney Collection is a valued addition to the Photographic Archives.

Papers of Walter Tevis

An extensive collection of the papers of author Walter Tevis (1928-1984) has been donated to the University of Kentucky Libraries by Mrs. Jamie Tevis of Athens, Ohio. Walter Tevis is best known for his novel *The Hustler* (1959), which in 1961 was adapted to a motion picture starring Jackie Gleason, Paul Newman, and George C. Scott. The film won three academy awards; the novelist wrote that he was also nominated for the Screen Writers' Annual Award and notified of his selection, although he never received the plaque. A second novel, *The Man Who Fell to Earth* (1963), was also made into a film, starring David Bowie; although the book depicted a landing in Estill County, Kentucky, the movie version was filmed in Albuquerque and London.

A native of San Francisco, Walter Tevis received B.A. and M.A. degrees in English from the University of Kentucky. (He also took an M.F.A. from the University of Iowa.) He taught at Southern Connecticut State College and later was Director of the Writing Program at Ohio University and a Visiting Professor of Fiction Writing at the University of Iowa. In addition to his two well-known novels, he was also the author of many short stories, published in such popular magazines as *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Collier's*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Playboy*, *Esquire*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Redbook*, and *Cosmopolitan*. His work was also translated for popular magazines in Europe.

The collection received by the libraries comprises copies of a number of periodicals (including foreign ones) containing Walter Tevis's writings, typescripts for a number of short stories, photographs, a one-act play, screen outlines, professional correspondence, and legal documents. The correspondence is especially valuable and provides telling insight into the marketing and management of creative properties. Negotiations with agents on the placement of literary works, securing of film options, authorizing of reprints, and other business matters work to create an understanding of the behind-the-scenes activity which results in popular publications and films.

—James D. Birchfield